

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C., 20231, on:



Date February 27, 2002

By:

*[Signature]*

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF:

Ishikawa, *et al.*

APPLICATION NO.: 09/555,704

FILED: June 2, 2000

FOR: ENCEPHALITIS VIRUSES AND PROCESSES  
FOR PRODUCING THE SAME

EXAMINER: S. Brown

ART UNIT: 1648

CONFIRMATION NO. 9123

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

MAR 14 2002

RECEIVED

Amendment under 37 CFR §1.111

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Office action dated November 27, 2001 in the above-identified application, please amend the above-identified application as follows.

In the Specification:

On page 33, please replace the abstract paragraph with the following substitute abstract:

*B1* The present invention provides a novel inactivated virus particle and a reinforced immunogen which have a reinforced titer about twice to about 10 times that of a conventional vaccine, as well as a method for producing the same. The inactivated virus particle is produced by inactivating and then purifying a culture by physical means. The inactivated virus particle of the present invention is useful in a diagnostic agent for infectious disease caused by a group of Japanese encephalitis virus.